BEST VIEWED IN WIDE ANGLE

This Picture-mantary lets you join Gary Birkett and Gerry Kaufhold on a day hike to the **Golden Spike** and **Railroad Trestle** along the southern portion of **Passage 16 – Gila River Canyons – of the Arizona National Scenic Trail.**

This is one of many day hikes that can be enjoyed in the Copper Corridor. This is one of many adventures that can be enjoyed in the Copper Corridor. **The Copper Corridor** is located EAST of Phoenix along US 60 through **Superior** and **Globe-Miami**. It also extends southward along State Route 177 past the **Ray Mine Overlook**, the **Jake Jacobson Bridge of Unity**, and the historic communities of **Kearny, Hayden, Winkelman, Dudleyville, Aravaipa, Mammoth, San Manuel and Oracle**

At the end of the Picture-mentary we encourage you to check out the General Kearny Inn, located in Kearny, Arizona and plan your own adventure in the Copper Corridor.

There's a list of family-owned places to eat. And "hot links" that make it easy for you to find out more. **ENJOY!**

Our rural lifestyle is only sustainable if we create income for our communities. Please consider becoming a ***Rural Sustainability Booster Member*** *to the organizations featured at the end of our story.*

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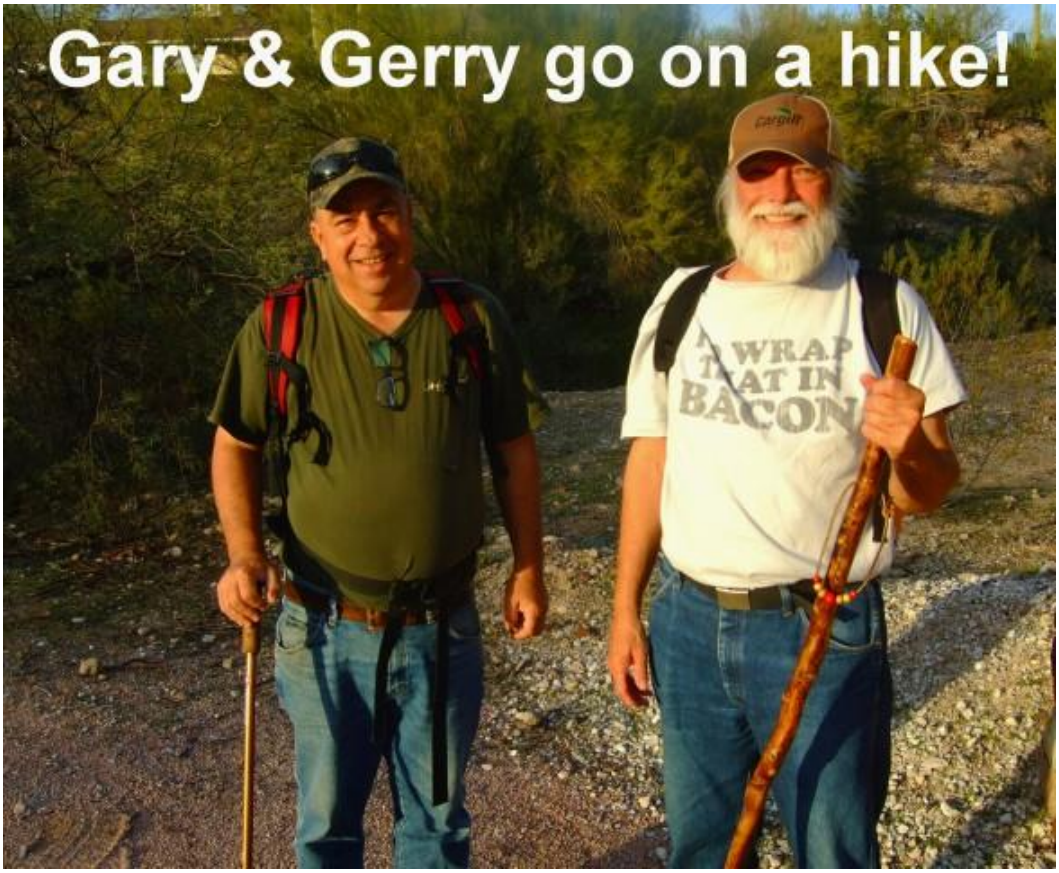
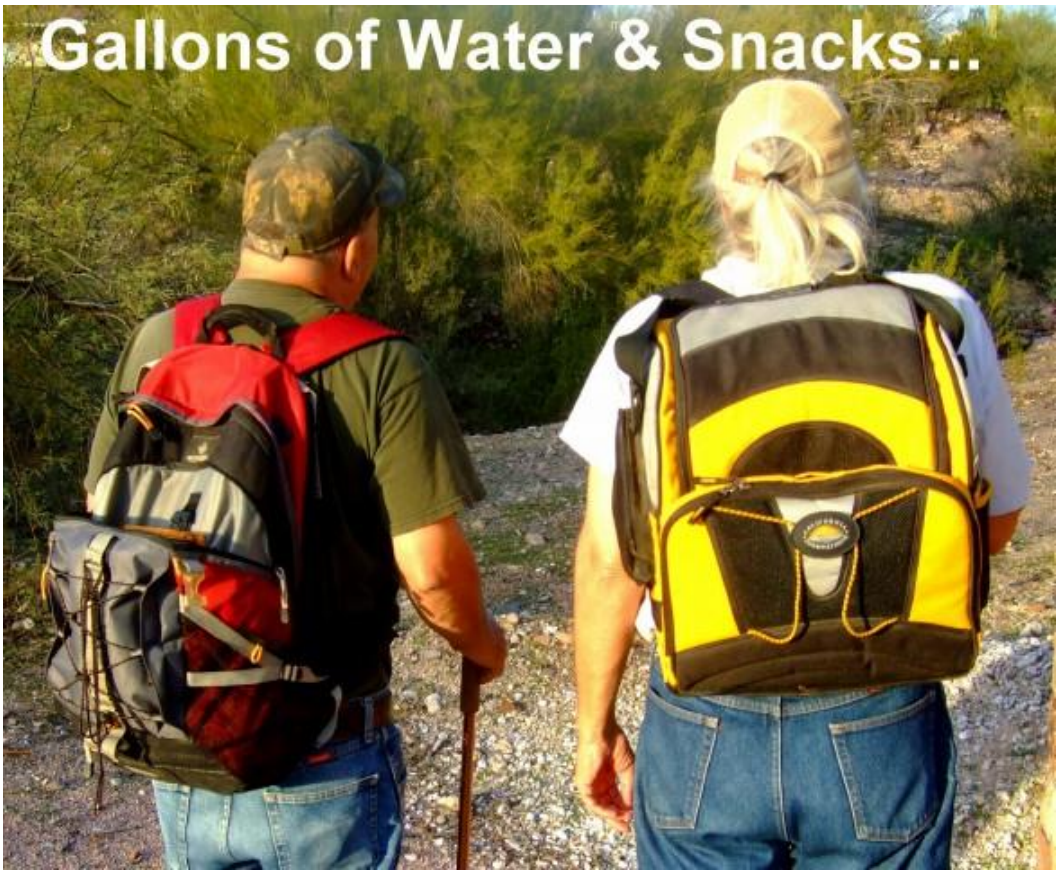
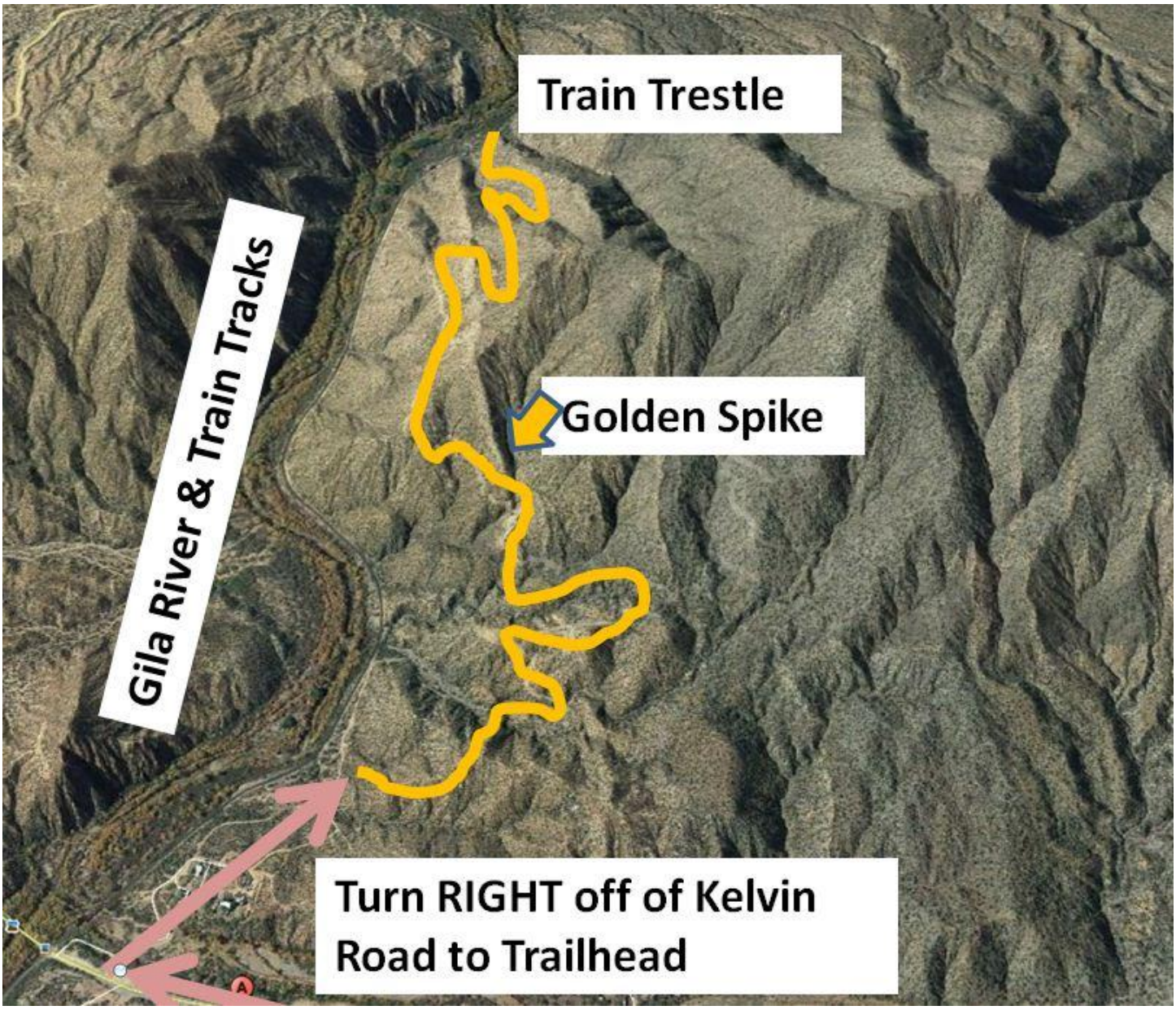


On Tuesday, January 10, 2017 Gary Birkett, owner of Old Time Pizza in colorful downtown Kearny, Arizona, helped with a day hike along the southern-most part of Passage 16 of the Arizona National Scenic Trail.



Each of us took several gallons of fresh water, along with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, apples and power bars for energy.

Our destination was to see the **Golden Spike** that memorializes where the final segment of the 800+ mile long Arizona National Scenic Trail was completed in 2011. We planned to continue past the Golden Spike, over the mountains, to the **Train Trestle** that crosses the Gila River. The entire hike is about 8 miles roundtrip, ideal for experienced day hikers.



At the railroad tracks on AZ State Route 177, turn WEST on Kelvin Road, and watch for the Cactus mailbox.
Turn RIGHT at the street and head along dirt road to the Trailhead.

The trailhead provides safe parking. Water jugs are usually available to top off your supply.

There is a large sign with details about the trail. GO RIGHT from the sign to the road, and find the GATE for the Arizona Trail.

Gary B at the gate where we entered the Southern portion of Section 16 of the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

Soon after entering the trail you'll smile when you see the bright pink outhouse!

Watch for the tall markers that indicate you are still on the official Arizona National Scenic Trail.

The trail winds up and down the mountainside.
It passes along the Copper Basin Railway tracks.
CAUTION: STAY AWAY FROM THE TRACKS AT ALL TIMES!

The trail goes through a dense forest of Saguaro. Some people think that there are more Saguaros near Kearny than there are in the Saguaro National Forest near Tucson.

From up on the mountainside the views are magnificent. Here we have the trees turning color down along the Gila River. You can also see the Railroad Tracks.

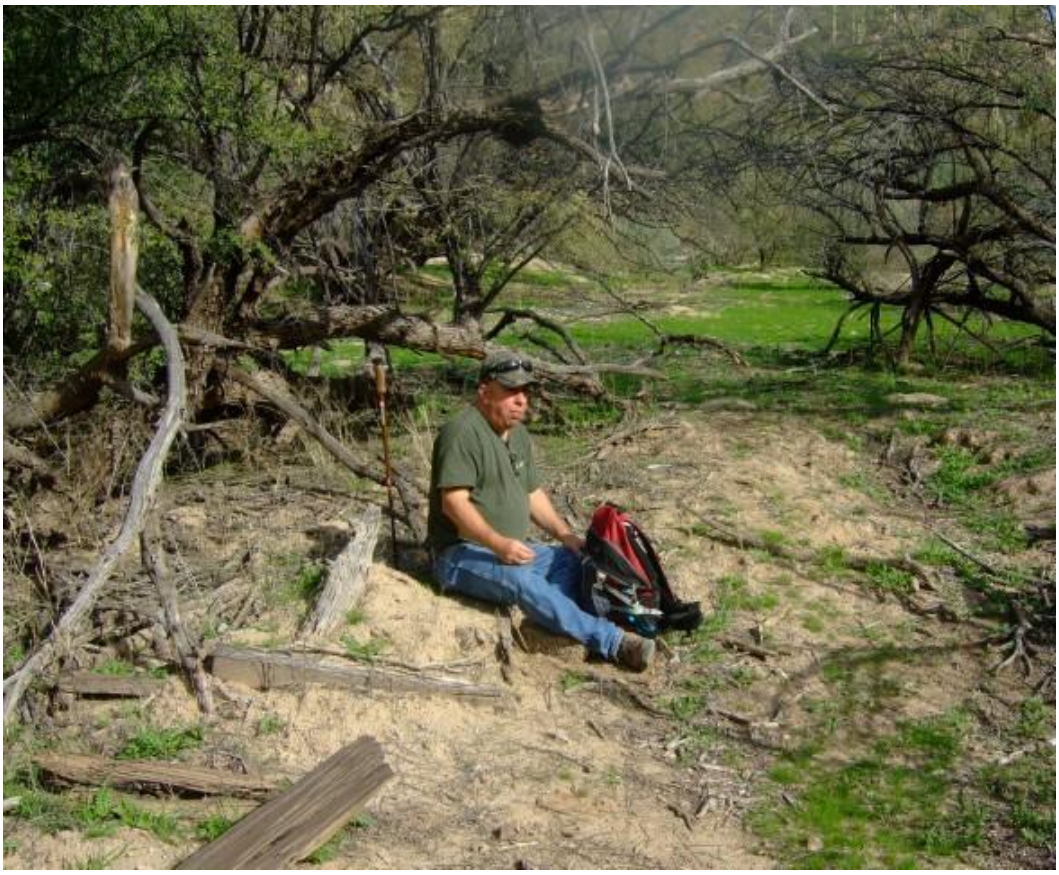
We rested on a large rock. Gary says that Lorraine likes to stop here. We've decided to call this Lorraine's Rest Rock.

Look over Gary's shoulder, and you'll see the train trestle way off below us in the distance. Still some walking to get down there for lunch.

The train trestle is still about a half mile of hiking.

Success! Made it to the train trestle.
The Gila River runs underneath.

Hikers have access to the Gila River at the Train Trestle.

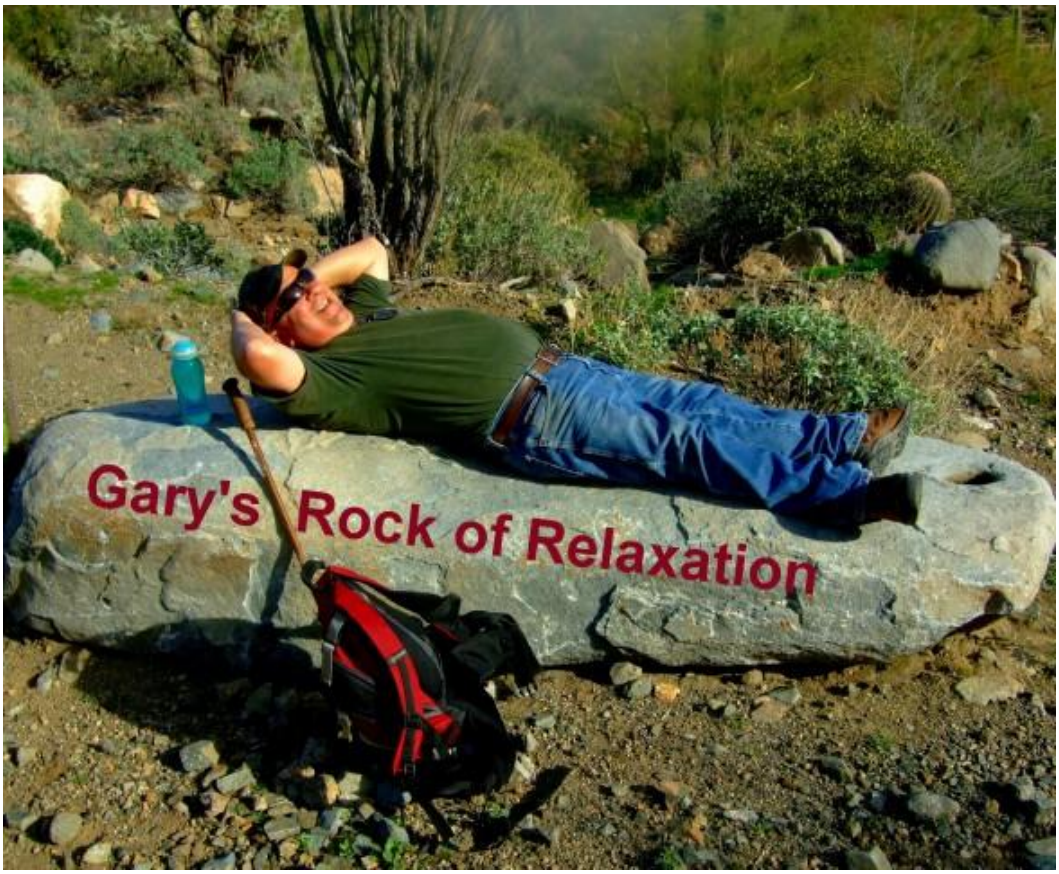


The riparian area along the river provides cool shade and a great place to picnic before heading back towards The Golden Spike!

Gary strikes his warrior pose atop some large rocks on the way back.

We stop once more at Lorraine's Rest Rock.

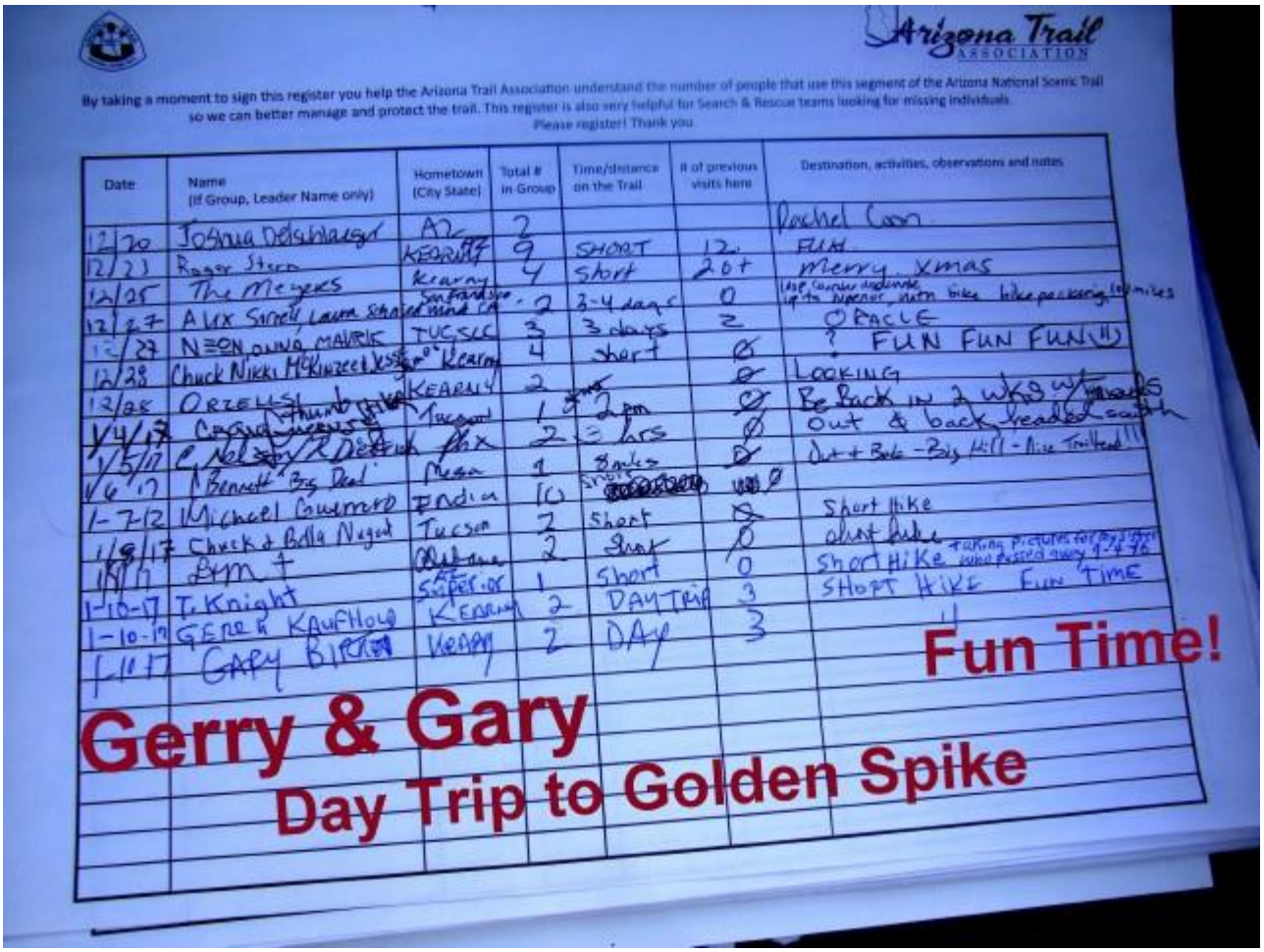
The Golden Spike! It's located on the uphill side of the trail. On our way out towards the Train Trestle, we were so "smitten" with the view we completely missed the Golden Spike! You may too!



As we walked downhill towards the trailhead, Gary christened his own “Rock of Relaxation!”

When we got back to the vehicle we drove over to the trailhead on the North side of Section 15. There is a ramada, a water locker, and the Arizona Trail Logbook to sign!

We drove up to the Trail Head for the Northern portion of Section 15 and signed the log book to complete our journey.



THANK YOU for viewing our hike to the Golden Spike along Section 16 of the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

We invite you to plan a trip out to **The Copper Corridor** and explore the scenic wonders and historical towns.

Day Hikes along the Southern portion of **Passage 16**, and along the Northern portion of **Passage 15** of the **Arizona National Scenic Trail** make an ideal weekend getaway! Please make plans to join us SOON!

Plan a visit to Kearny and stay overnight at **The General Kearny Inn:**

General Kearny Inn (GKI) – Family-owned 47-room hotel, recently upgraded rooms, courtyard with large covered patio perfect for hosting events. Lobby Bar open Monday-Saturday 10:00 AM till 10:00 PM. Phone: **(520) 363-5505** http://www.generalkearnyinn.com/

Places to Eat in or near Kearny:

West End Café – Open Monday-Saturday 6:30 AM – 8:00 PM. Daily specials. Homemade soups. (520) 363-9563 **CLOSED SUNDAYS**

Old Time Pizza – Great party venue. Delivery after 4:00 PM Open 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM **Open 7 Days** (520) 363-5523

Big D's Market – Gas. Food, deli sandwiches, ice, soda, beer, wine and snacks. **Open 7 Days** (520) 363-7207 **SUNDAY Breakfast 8:00-Noon**

Cactus Minimart – Sandwiches, ice, soda, beer, wine and snacks, Lottery. **Open 7 Days** (520) 363-5111

Deli Counter at Norm's IGA has daily specials. **Open 7 Days**

Maria's Restaurant (Hayden) – Mexican & American dishes. **Open 7 Days** 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM (520) 356-6807

THANKS for viewing our Picture-mentary! Next Steps:

- Share this Picture-mentary with your friends via Social Media
- Drive out and enjoy a meal at one of our family-owned restaurants
- Follow the Ore Cart Trail and take selfies along the way
- Plan an overnight visit and an activity like a Day Hike or Festival
- If you prefer rural living consider relocating to the Copper Corridor
- Plan a day hike from Superior, Oracle, Kearny or Globe-Miami

And please tell your friends how much fun you had here!

The Copper Corridor provides marvelous recreation opportunities within a two-hour drive EAST of Phoenix, or NORTH from Tucson.

For news and information about our area, visit **Copper Area News**

http://www.copperarea.com

http://www.discovercoppercorridor.org

Or visit the **Globe-Miami Times** website:

http://www.globemiamitimes.com/

Town of Kearny website:

http://www.townofkearny.com/

Copper Basin Chamber of Commerce covering Kearny, Hayden, Winkelman and Dudleville:

http://www.copperbasinaz.org

Superior Visitor Info at the Caboose along US 60

Call them at 520-689-0200

http://www.superiorarizonachamber.org

Globe-Miami Chamber of Commerce

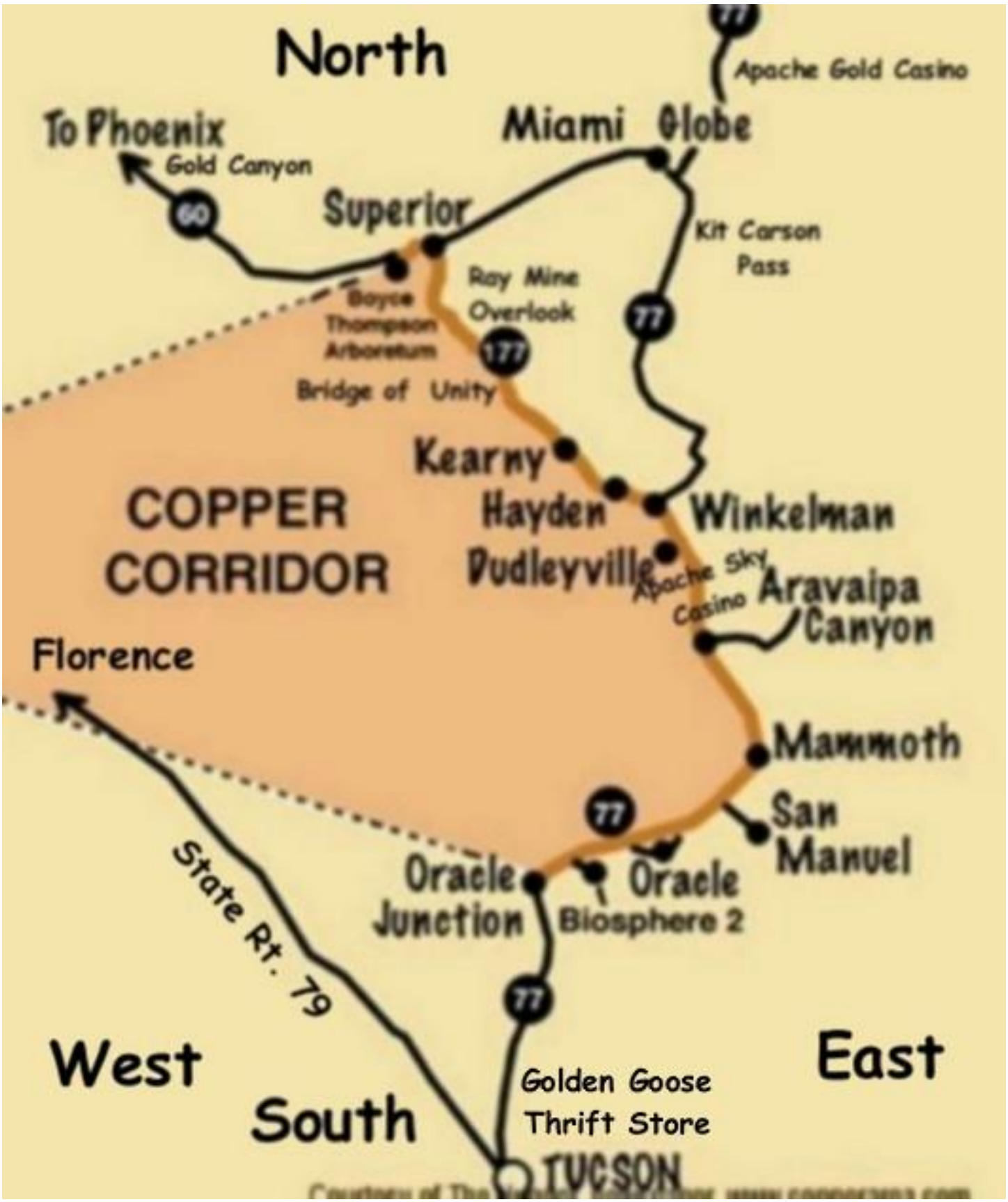
http://globemiamichamber.com/

Oracle Visitor Info at the Tri-Community Visitor Center

(520) 214-1142 or (520) 265-2105

http://www.visittricommunity.org

The Arizona National Scenic Trail is a complete non-motorized path, stretching 800 diverse miles across Arizona from Mexico to Utah. It links deserts, mountains, canyons, forests, communities and people.

The Arizona Trail Association's mission is to protect, maintain, enhance, promote and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the land. To find out more visit: http://www.aztrail.org/

Map of the Copper Corridor: